

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9258

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, SF, AO

SUBJ: FUELING FOR R/V CHAIN

REF: (A) STATE 13079; (B) STATE 21635

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: FROM DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL A, CONGEN CAPE TOWN BELIEVES LOCAL ESSO OFFER SUFFICIENTLY FIRM TO MEET CHAIN'S REQUIREMENTS. AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS ARRANGEMENT NOT (RPT NOT) REQUIRED FROM ESSO NEW YORK SINCE TRANSACTION WILL BE TREATED AS LOCAL SALE. ACCOUNT WILL BE SETTLED DIRECTLY BETWEEN EYVO AND WOODS HOLE AT PREVAILING PRICES QUOTED IN RAND FOR EACH SALE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, ESSO'S LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. OTTO, REQUESTS EITHER CONTRACT NUMBER OR ESSO MARINE CREDIT CARD NUMBER NORMALLY USED BY CHAIN IN OBTAINING FUEL. REQUEST DEPT. OBTAIN FROM DR. EDWARDS CONFIRMATION THAT INFORMATION ON CONTRACT OR CREDIT CARD NUMBER IS MADE AVAILABLE TO ESSO CAPE TOWN FOR MR. OTTO. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREGOING CONCLUSION AND INFORMATION BASED ON CONGEN CAPE TOWN ECON OFFICER'S TELEPHONE DISCUSSION WITH MR. OTTO, WHO EXPLAINED HE HAD BEEN UNABLE PROVIDE DR. EDWARDS DELIVERY COMMITMENT IN WRITING FOR LOCAL SALE SINCE HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THERE WOULD BE NO DETERIORATION IN PRESENT SITUATION. BARRING ONLY
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EXTREME AND UNFORESEEN CHANGE IN SUPPLY AND CONTROL SITUATION

HOWEVER HE ANTICIPATED NO RPT NO DIFFICULTY IN MEETING FURTHER CHAIN REQUIREMENTS FROM INDUSTRIAL FUEL STOCKS. QUANTITIES INVOLVED WERE SMALL AND WELL SPACED AND HE EXPECTS PROVIDE SAME SERVICE TO ROBERT E. CONRAD, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIP, ALSO OPERATING OUT OF CAPE TOWN (PRETORIA 25). OTTO ALSO SAID ESSO'S 10 YEAR N STORY OF SUPPLYING WOOJ HOLE IS ADDITIONAL FACTOR AND PUTS CHAIN IN PREFERRED CATEGORY OF REGULAR CUSTOMER GENERALLY ENTITLED TO OBTAIN ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS. FYI: MR. OTTO DESCRIBED N.Y. ATTITUDE AS "HIGH-HANDED". END FYI.

2. ECON OFFICER OBTAINED SIMILAR BUT CONSIDERABLY LESS PRECISE ASSURANCES DURING VISIT TO JOHN RENNIE & SON, CHAIN'S AGENT, BEFORE TALKING TO MR. OTTO. ACCORDING TO ACTING GENERAL MANAGER FOR SHIPS, MR. BERNARDO, RENNIE'S WILL CONFIRM SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING FUEL, TO CHAIN 2-3 DAYS BEFORE SCHEDULED ARRIVALS CAPE TOWN.

3. IN ABSENCE ANY UNFAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT CONSULATE GENERAL DOES NOT ANTICIPATE NEED FOR FURTHER RECOURSE TO OTTO OR ACTION ON ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT (REFTEL B). IF, HOWEVER, LAST MINUTE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM DEVELOPS, BELIEVE THIS CAN BE RESERVED THROUGH FALL BACK ON MOBILE ARRANGEMENT WHICH WAS EMPLOYED DURING FIRST

CALL THIS SERIES VISITS. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, INDUSTRIAL STOCKS INVOLVED ANY CASE UNDERSTOOD TO BE SUFFICIENT TO NEEDS. MEANWHILE EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH DFA AND ASKED FOR FOLLOW-UP TO BE SURE THAT NOTIFICATION RE PRIORITY DOCKING ARRANGEMENTS REACHES ALL APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN TIME FOR FEB 11-15 AND MARCH 13-22

VISITS. ALSO INDICATED TO DFA EXPECTATION THAT ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE COMMERCIALY WOULD SATISFY FUEL REQUIREMENTS.
SMITH

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